



House of Commons  
International Development  
Committee

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**Prospects for sustainable  
peace in Uganda:  
Government Response  
to the Committee's  
Ninth Report of Session  
2006–07**

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**Tenth Special Report of Session  
2006–07**

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## International Development Committee

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### Committee staff

The staff of the Committee are Carol Oxborough (Clerk), Matthew Hedges (Second Clerk), Dr Anna Dickson (Committee Specialist), Chlöe Challender (Committee Specialist), Ian Hook (Committee Assistant), Jennifer Steele (Secretary), Alex Paterson (Media Officer) and James Bowman (Senior Office Clerk).

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# Tenth Special Report

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On 24 July 2007 the International Development Committee published its Ninth Report of Session 2006-07, *Prospects for sustainable peace in Uganda*, HC 853. On 24 September 2007 we received the Government's response to the Report. It is reproduced as an Appendix to this Special Report.

In the Government Response, the Committee's conclusions and recommendations are in bold text. The Government's response is in plain text.

## Appendix: Government Response

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### PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

#### *The role of the International Criminal Court*

[Paragraph 10] We agree that the International Criminal Court warrants have helped to bring the parties to the negotiating table, and have engendered a greater level of international awareness to the conflict. We believe that this is a positive step. The way in which the warrants are dealt with, at the end of the peace process, will have implications for the future credibility of the ICC. We see the capacity of the Court to defer to national processes which meet international justice standards as part of its strength and not as something which should be seen as damaging the credibility of the Court. However the ICC is on a sharp learning curve and must be given the necessary support by the international community to carry out its mandate according to international law. In this way the ICC, and its potential contribution to the Responsibility to Protect, will be strengthened.

We agree that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is playing an important role in efforts to bring sustainable peace to northern Uganda. The UK Government strongly supports the ICC. Justice is an essential part of a sustainable peace, and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account. The UK Government continues to work towards a resolution of the conflict which is compatible with the Rome Statute of the ICC, national laws and the wishes of those affected by the conflict.

#### *The Juba Peace Talks*

[Paragraph 13] We are pleased that the Juba peace process is continuing and has made progress, despite setbacks. The international community must continue to support this fragile process through the Juba Initiative Fund, and by encouraging all parties to remain committed to a non-military solution.

We agree. The UN recently submitted a request for further support to the Juba Initiative Fund. Details of this are currently being discussed by donor representatives in Kampala. DFID, in consultation with the FCO and MoD, will take a decision on the scope of further UK support in the near future.

**[Paragraph 17] Justice and accountability are crucial elements for any lasting peace. The victims of the conflict, and especially women and children, must be included in discussions about accountability and in any traditional justice mechanisms adopted. The UK Government, along with other donors, can help to ensure that a wide consultation takes place on these matters so that grievances are fully dealt with at an early stage. The Ugandan legal system must demonstrate the capacity to process and fairly adjudicate on allegations of gross human rights violations arising from the conflict. We recommend that the UK Government raise concerns about the independence and accessibility of the Ugandan judiciary with the Government of Uganda.**

We agree it is important that the victims of the conflict must be included in discussions about accountability. A series of extensive consultations on justice and accountability are currently taking place across Uganda with an emphasis on discussions at community level in the North. The process is being led by the Government of Uganda with support from donors. The UN has attended some of the meetings as observers. Consultations are scheduled to conclude on 27 September.

Members of the Ugandan judiciary have held a number of meetings to consider their role with respect to any process that might be developed to deal with issues arising from the conflict. The Ugandan judiciary has demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding its independence. We continue to emphasise the importance of respecting the rule of law in our discussions with the Government of Uganda.

### ***The Amnesty Commission***

**[Paragraph 18] DFID told us it was willing to look at further financial support for the Amnesty Commission. We would support a decision by DFID to assist in the reintegration of more combatants into their communities through additional funding for the Amnesty Commission.**

The Amnesty Commission has recently submitted a final proposal to donors for further support to its reintegration work. We are currently discussing with other donors how best to provide the funds requested.

## TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PEACE

### *Meeting humanitarian needs*

**[Paragraph 21] Despite the cessation of hostilities brought about by the Juba peace process, northern Uganda still faces a humanitarian crisis. Donors must undertake to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, at the level outlined by the UN Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal, as long as is necessary to ensure that conditions in the IDP camps do not deteriorate again.**

We agree that while people remain in camps adequate levels of humanitarian assistance need to be provided. We have recently released a further £3.8 million to support both ongoing relief programmes in the IDP camps and recovery activities in areas where people are returning to their homes, bringing the UK's humanitarian support this financial year to £10.8 million.

### *Security in northern Uganda*

**[Paragraph 23] Fears about the security situation outside the camps must be taken seriously. Measures to increase and improve the police presence in the camps and rural areas are a step in the right direction. We believe that funding for police training should become a priority for donors in northern Uganda and that an appropriate exit strategy for the Uganda People's Defence Force should be developed as the civilian police presence increases.**

We agree that addressing fears about the security situation is extremely important. Efforts to improve the police presence in both camps and rural areas are continuing and are beginning to yield positive results. Over the last 12 months an additional 2,000 police personnel have been deployed in northern districts. As part of a donor funded programme of support to the police in the North DFID has recently provided 17 fully equipped vehicles to increase the police force's mobility. We are in the process of installing communications equipment for 50 police stations that are being re-established in northern districts. Other donors are providing support for training, equipment and staff housing. We have emphasised the importance of the Uganda People's Defence Force withdrawing itself from civilian policing functions as the police force's capacity to fulfil its role improves.

**[Paragraph 24] We note that the UN Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal includes the Karamoja region and share the concerns raised by NGOs about security there. We urge donors to adopt a comprehensive approach to peace building in the region and not to exclude security in the Karamoja region from their discussions with the Government of Uganda.**

We agree that the security situation in Karamoja is a major concern. Recent reports by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch note that over the last few months there have been improvements in the Government's approach to disarmament although further progress on respect for human rights is

required. The UK, along with other members of the international community, regularly raises security and human rights issues with the Government of Uganda and the situation in Karamoja is included in these discussions. We and our international partners have also repeatedly stated our belief that a comprehensive, regional approach is required to the complex development and security problems in Karamoja.

### ***Protecting children***

**[Paragraph 25] The protection of conflict affected children is an area of great concern and we consider that the welfare of children, including psycho-social needs, should be treated as a priority. We recommend that the needs of children affected by the conflict become a focus of DFID's post conflict programmes. We expect to be kept informed about the progress on the social protection and cash transfer schemes which DFID is considering.**

We agree that the welfare of children in conflict affected areas should be an important priority for DFID. We are supporting child protection programmes through the UN and NGO's and we plan additional assistance in this area in the future. It is also important that the wider needs of children, and their communities, are addressed through support to health, water and sanitation and livelihoods recovery programmes. We are planning further major investments in these areas. We will keep the International Development Committee informed about progress on social protection and cash transfer schemes.

### ***Resettlement and development***

**[Paragraph 26] The international donor community must work alongside the Government of Uganda to ensure that sufficient resources continue to be directed at the North and that priorities for re-development are those identified by people in the North, including women and civil society groups. We recommend that a greater level of consultation should be a condition of DFID's and other donors' contributions to the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan.**

The final version of the Government of Uganda's Peace Recovery and Development Programme (PRDP) is due to be released at the end of September. Detailed consultations did take place at District level on the last draft of the programme document. We agree that the priorities for redevelopment should be those identified by people in the North. We will be examining the final document closely and holding further discussions with the Government, to ensure that consultations with local communities continue as the PRDP is implemented.

### ***Donor coordination***

**[Paragraph 27] The UN Development Programme and the Government of Uganda should work together to ensure that an Early Recovery Cluster is established as soon as possible. All too frequently when conflicts end there is a time lag before development**

**projects get underway with severe consequences for sustaining the peace. We recommend that DFID takes all possible steps to ensure that this does not happen in Uganda.**

An Early Recovery Cluster was established in Uganda in early 2006. However it has not been sufficiently active. DFID has been involved in discussions within the local Inter Agency Standing Committee on this issue recently. UNDP has agreed to take urgent steps to strengthen the clusters work and improve co-ordination on recovery and transition issues.

Department of International Development  
24 September 2007